

***NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE
PRODUCT/SERVICE DESCRIPTION DOCUMENT (PDD)
TYPE: Official Product
DATE: June 19, 2003***

TROPICAL CYCLONE DISCUSSION

Part 1 - Mission Connection

1. Product/Service Description:

The Tropical Cyclone Discussion (TCD) is a text product prepared by the National Weather Services (NWS) National Hurricane Center (NHC) and Central Pacific Hurricane Center (CPHC) for tropical cyclones in their respective basin of responsibility. The TCD provides forecasters reasoning behind the analysis and forecast of a tropical cyclone. Discussions include prognostic reasoning; objective techniques employed; NHC, CPHC, and Hydrometeorological Prediction Center (HPC) guidance used; coordinated 12-, 24-, 36-, 48-, 72-, 96-, and 120-hour tropical cyclone forecast positions and maximum sustained wind speed forecasts; other meteorological decisions; and plans for watches and warnings. This product is also issued for subtropical storms.

2. Purpose/Intended Use:

The TCD is a primary tropical cyclone product explaining forecasters reasoning behind analysis and the forecast for a tropical cyclone. Issuance criteria for the TCD is provided in NWSI 10-601.

3. Audience:

The primary target audience for the product includes National Meteorological Centers and WFOs; federal, state, and local government agencies; state, and local emergency managers, Nations of the Caribbean and Central America, and Department of Defense. A secondary target audience includes the maritime industry, media, and the general public.

4. Presentation Format:

The product is available in text format and may include a wide range of information, to include (if applicable): wind speeds as measured by aircraft; wind speeds from dropwindsondes; central pressure; satellite imagery interpretation; radar data and interpretation; discussion on synoptic features; recent model trends and model-preferred forecasts; intensity trends and forecasts. The final portion of the product is noted by Forecast Positions and Max Winds, where initial and forecast positions and maximum wind speed forecasts are provided.

TCDs for active tropical cyclones in the Atlantic and East Pacific basins are provided at:
<http://www.nhc.noaa.gov/>.

TCDs for active tropical cyclones in the Central Pacific basin are provided at:
<http://www.prh.noaa.gov/pr/hnl/cphc/pages/cphc.shtml>.

5. Feedback Method:

Continuous feedback is available via an Internet page e-mail link to the program managers

in the Marine and Coastal Weather Services Branch. Technical and policy questions, and comments for the TCD may be addressed to:

National Weather Service
Attn: Scott Kiser, W/OS21
Tropical Cyclone Program Manager
1325 East-West Highway, Room 13126
Silver Spring, MD 20910-3283

or e-mail questions and comments to: Scott.Kiser@noaa.gov

Part 2 - Technical

1. **Format and Science Basis:**

The TCD product is a free-form text product produced by hurricane forecasters providing a current and future technical assessment for each tropical and subtropical system. The product is generally disseminated after coordination telephone calls have been made with affected WFOs, National Centers, such as the Storm Prediction Center and the HPC, and Department of Defense.

2. **Availability:**

The product is disseminated at 0300, 0900, 1500, and 2100 Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). The product is made available via various means of dissemination such as: the Internet, U.S. Coast Guard Radio Broadcasts, the NOAA Weather Radio, NOAA Weather Wire, and NOAAPort.

3. **Additional Information:**

A full description of this and other NWS Tropical Cyclone Weather Services Program Products is provided in NWSI 10-601, which is available on the Internet at:

http://www.nws.noaa.gov/directives/010/operation_services.htm.